The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

NO8A Special Event Call K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75

JULY 2007 **VOLUME XXXV** **ISSUE VII**

FROM THE PREZ

We had a another fine turnout for our June 12 meeting with 38 in attendance. Keep up the good work!

I am pleased to welcome Jeff, KD8GIR as the newest member of the CARS family. Congratulations Jeff!

Our June program was a very informative and entertaining presentation by Wayne Smith, K8FF. Wayne talked about and displayed his collection of several CW keys and paddles including his own designs. Our July program will be a presentation by John Papay, K8YSE on APRS.

Bruce, N8DJX collected $32 as his share of the 50/50 drawing. Congrats Bruce.

2007 Field Day is now in the books. Our chairman, Toby, WT8O worked hard to organize the 2007 Field Day. Thanks for a job well done! Bill, N8BBB provided an abundance of great food for both days. While we hit a couple of speed bumps, most of our FD plans came off as expected. We had more QSO's than last year, but lost out on 300 bonus points because of the unexpected illness of one of our members who was to do both the section manager message & 10 other messages 200 points. We also had a rotor fail on the satellite trailer, but all the other bonus points were achieved. In a fast check it looks like we had a little over 1,576 QSOs, 761 cw, 24 digital (785 total) & 791 phone. Last year we had 1,307 QSOs total and 5,346 points. Thanks to all who worked Field Day.

This was a very well attended FD, with 12 visitors including the Mayor of Broadview Hts. and 40 members attending. The weather was perfect, antennas worked well and we had no shortage of QSOs on 80, 40 & 20 meters, 15, 10 & 6 meters was another story, the bottom of the solar cycle took it toll on those bands. Maybe next year we will add a 160 meter antenna for a better score.

I am sorry to report that the new owners of the Wm. G. Mather have decided they are not interested in having a ham radio station on the ship. so after 10 months of discussions we have given up on the project.

The July meeting will be at the Cleveland Metro Parks, Brecksville reservation, in the Oak Grove pavilion.

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Don't forget to check into the Wednesday Club net at 9:00 p.m. You'll be glad you did !

Below are a couple of pics of the Field Day activities.

Bill, N8BBB cooking up some lasagna for the troops.

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George K8KR, Roger N8TCP, & Tom WB8N getting the 40 meter CW station ready to go on the air.

hat's it for another WO. This month's thought: ***It is not enough to do your best; you must know what to do, and THEN do your best.***

73 till next month
de, Bob W8GC

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

The first C.A.R.S. outdoor picnic meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM on June 12th, 2007 by president Bob Check, W8GC. The meeting was held at the Oak Grove Picnic Area of the Cleveland Metroparks, in Brecksville, Ohio. Introductions were given by thirty-three members and three guests.

Ron, K8VJG motioned to accept the May meeting minutes as published in the *Wobbly Oscillator*. There were no additions, corrections, or questions, and Dwaine, K8ME seconded, and the members passed the motion.

Tina, W8HBI gave the treasurer's report on the treasury balance. There were no questions pertaining to the club's financial status. Scotty, WA8SLN announced the results of 2007 C.A.R.S. scholarship awards. Of the five applicants, the winners were Kim Balach, KD8FTU and Michael Dressler, KC8OMV. Scotty added that the other three applicants were not far behind in the points total, and suggested they apply again next year; since the rules now allow that anyone may apply without regard to time elapsed after high school graduation. President Check encouraged all to get their tickets as soon as possible for the Great Lakes Division, ARRL Convention, since they were going fast. He said that the tickets could be purchased on line, with a credit card at the club website, or by sending a check to the club treasurer. Bob mentioned that the convention has a great line up of seminars, featuring the ARRL president, Joel Harrison, W5ZN, as the keynote speaker.

Gary, NI8Z updated the group on the status of the VE sessions. He reported that the last session was very successful, with twelve people taking tests, and eleven passing. He added the VE session in July would be using the new question pool for the General test. Gary took a minute to thank his VE staff for all the help, and for doing a great job.

Dwaine, K8ME reported on the Mather project. He said he and Toby had gone down to the ship the previous weekend and removed the old antennas, and began cleaning out the radio room. He said that legal requirements will need to be met for a new antenna. Dwaine concluded by

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saying plans were in place to fix up and paint the radio room.

The annual summer picnic plans were discussed by George, K8KR. The picnic will be held this year on Friday, July 27th, at the Independence Civic Center pavilion. He said it would be held from 6:00 PM until dark. George talked about the great food being planned, door prizes and games. He asked for a show of hands of the people who would attend, and judging from the response, their will be a good showing of members and their families.

Bill, KC8YSV, out ARRL liaison, asked members to read the e-mails by section manager Jim Weaver, K8JE, pertaining to the legislation to control BPL. He suggested writing elected officials to support our cause. Bill reminded members to pay their ARRL dues through C.A.R.S. He outlined future meeting programs. July will be a presentation by John Papay, K8YSE on APRS; August will feature Mike, KB8BMY, speaking on GPS geo-caching; and in September, Mike will do a program on hand crank flashlights and radios.

Dave, KD8V, our sunshine chairman, announced that there were no cards sent out in the last month. He said the ham club at the Copley Middle School attracted seventeen members this past school year. Dave mentioned that the participants were younger, mostly fifth and sixth graders, and five students are ready to take their Technician examinations. He added that the parents are very enthusiastic and supportive. Bob offered to help set up a special VE session for the students to take their tests.

Toby, WT8O said the nets have had great participation and there may be a new net control operator soon. He said the enthusiasm for Field Day is running high, and the expected turnout should be good.

Bob reported that the board had approved the purchase of a Kenwood TM-V71A radio for the Echolink project on the repeater. He said John, K8YSE, will be helping to set up the repeater and it should be operational within the next few weeks.

Tom, WB8N was glad to say that C.A.R.S. had twelve members help out with the Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure bicycle fund raiser held the previous Sunday at Blossom Music Center.

Dave, K8DAV showed the group pictures of the repeater before and after the new equipment was installed. The photos showed the dramatic improvement in the equipment and wiring. He also explained the functions of the various locations of the receive sites. Dave brought up the survey he took recently, and asked the members if there were any changes that should be made. There were no suggestions for change, so things will remain status quo for now.

President Check took a minute to thank the members of the refreshment committee; Mike, KB8UGT; Terry, KB8DTC; Ron, K8VJG; and Ed, KD8CLC. He also announced hats will be available with an embroidered C.A.R.S. logo and call sign for thirteen dollars. The Prez informed the group that equipment has been donated to the club. Ray, WD8IRA donated a Heathkit DX20 and other miscellaneous equipment. Other donations included a HQ-145X, a SX-62A, and a Hammarlund speaker. The equipment will be used for club activities or sold, with the proceeds going into the treasury.

A new member was voted on, accepted and welcomed to the club; Jeff Bolek, KD8GIR.

Bruce, N8DJX, was the winner of the 50/50 raffle, who received $34, with an equal amount going into the club treasury.

Bill, KC8YSV, motioned to close the meeting, and Bill, N8BBB seconded. The members passed the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Following the meeting, a presentation was given by Wayne Smith, K8FF. He talked about his display of CW keys and paddles, some being his own design. Wayne explained in depth about the construction and development of the various designs. He concluded with a brief history of his invention, the "Finger Dimple."

Respectfully submitted by Toby Kolman, WT8O, C.A.R.S. secretary

MEMBER INTERVIEW

This month's interview is with Bob Whiddon, NT8K

How did you become interested in Amateur Radio...who or what helped you get your first license?

I was given a crystal set kit when I was about 12 years old. I was fascinated by short wave signals. A ham neighbor got me started by showing me his station. I borrowed an old signal corps tape machine to learn Morse code. I got my Tech license in 1956. It expired while I was serving in the Army during the Vietnam conflict.

How long has you been licensed and what class license do you currently have?

I decided to re-acquire an amateur license in December, 2006. I attended the CARS VE test session on January 14, 2007, passing elements 1 thru 4, and received my Extra class license January 23.

What do you like about Amateur Radio?

I really enjoy meeting other hams on the air from around the country and around the world. Everyone is willing to pass on their advice and knowledge. I'm still pretty "new" to the hobby, and there's a lot to learn, which is a challenge as well as being fun.

What are your favorite bands/modes to work ?

I'm somewhat limited by antennas and resources for now, but I do work some CW on 80 and 40 meters, and SSB on 80,40,17,15 and 10 meters. I check in on local 2 meter nets. I intend to be active in Skywarn. I'll probably work fairly low power, and have already worked Europe, South America and Marshall Islands on less than 100 watts. Lots of fun!

What type of Ham radio equipment do you own or use?

Currently using an ICOM 746Pro transceiver into a simple dipole antenna for HF, and using a Diamond V2000 vertical for 6M and 2M. I Hope to install a Gap Titan vertical when weather permits. I'm fortunate to live on a hilltop.

What type of work do you do? If retired what was your occupation?

I retired from the Summit County Engineer's office in 2001. I now dabble in music as a performing songwriter and open mic host. From time to time I do live sound mixing.

Do you participate in any CARS projects or functions? If so which ones?

I'm brand new to the club, but look forward to future participation as opportunities arise. Looking forward to the Great Lakes convention in September of this year.

Many thanks to Bob for taking time to introduce himself to our readers.

GETTING STARTED IN RTTY

Submitted by "Buffalo Jim" Glor, N8GXR
Article by Steve Piotrowski, KC2QZF

While studying for General, I kept coming across references and bandplans for this "RTTY" thing. It seemed that every band has an allocation for it and made a note to myself to look into it when I finally did get my license

So I passed my general, and remembered my note. I looked into it and found a "new" old digital mode that is inexpensive to equip, easy to operate, and fun. There seems to be the feeling around that since RTTY is old, it's dead and has been replaced by modes like PSK31. It's not dead. There are still contests, nets, ragchews, and all the other stuff you would expect from any other mode.

RTTY is Radio Teletype. It has been around almost as long as radio, mostly because early applications adapted landline teletype machines (which replaced morse code telegraphy) to radio links instead of wireline. I am not going to go into a technical explanation of RTTY protocol or Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) for this article because (1) It's kind of dry and (2) I don't know THAT much about it. What I will describe is some of the references I found on the web, and how I went about building the interface between my PC and radio for like $10.00

As mentioned, RTTY is a digital mode that uses frequency shift keying. That means it makes a tone, modulates it, and sends it. The receiver then turns the tones back into text. Sounds overly simple doesn't it? Well, it's almost that easy. The key is some really neat software called MMTTY, which does nearly ALL the work that used to be done by big, heavy, loud mechanical teletype machines. If you've seen old war or police

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movies, the star was always ripping the new orders off of a teletype machine as soon as it stopped clattering. We've updated that just a bit but the core technology is the sam

Sending and receiving RTTY. There is one main way to receive RTTY and two ways to send it. To receive, you need to get audio from your radio to your computer's sound card. The software does the rest. If your radio has an FSK or RTTY mode, you build an interface one way and the radio generates the FSK tones and sends them. If your radio doesn't have RTTY/FSK, then you build the interface a different way, your computer generates the tones and the radio still sends them. The software works with either setup, just a different opt

Here's one of the first challenges: you need to connect the interface you build to a serial port. The laptop I am typing this on doesn't HAVE a serial port. Lots of new computers don't. A usb/serial adapter will work thankfully

If you are still reading this far you must be at least a little interested. Go check out this web page I used for most of my reference, both for hardware and software: http://www.aa5au.com/rtty.htm

He has a document "getting started in RTTY" that you can either print out from PDF or go thru page by page on the web. He has diagrams of the keying and PTT circuits (one transistor and one resistor each – even I can follow THAT schematic!), the audio circuit (one 600:600 audio transformer and some cables) . The way it ends up working is that signals sent from your PC serial port activate the PTT and keying circuit that you build, and that attaches to your radio, usually via the accessory plug on the back. Another cable passes audio from your radio, thru the transformer, and into your PC

Once it's built and running, you need to tune and find a signal. What does it sound like and how do I know when I'm tuned properly? Another good web reference, there is a guy who streams RTTY audio (he calls it ITTY) on the internet. So if you want you can get an idea what to listen for when you tune. http://207-207-72-42.ip.theriver.com/itty

So let's assume that you have an interface running and want to get on the air. Cool. Just like SSB or CW, it helps to listen for a while and figure out how the other ops conduct a conversation. A RTTY QSO has the feel of a CW exchange, even a lot of the shorthand is the same – handed down from the landline era.

CQ CQ CQ DE KC2QZF KC2QZF KC2QZF PSE K

CQ calling any station, DE "This is", KC2QZF, please K any station respond. Just like CW.

KC2QZF KC2QZF DE ZM2A ZM2A ZM2A PSE KN

KC2QZF this is ZM2A (in New Zealand on 80 watts* – not bad!) only one station respond

ZM2A DE KC2QZF NICE TO SEE YOU ON RTTY. HOW IS THE WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND? MY NAME IS STEVE STEVE. LOCATED IN BUFFALO NEW YORK USA. GRID SQUARE FN03QB FN03QB ZM2A DE KC2QZF BT and so on. Just like SSB and CW, some ops just want a quick QSO for the log and want to move on. Some will want to know about your rig, your QTH, shoe size and blood type. I'm usually somewhere in between.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

K8KR George Pindroh 7-5-42
N8TCP Roger Boehnlein 7-9-52
KC8WLZ Mark Butler 7-13-70
W8QXA Charles Matthes 7-14-27
KB8LWM Paul Naujoks 7-24-43
KC8LEO Scott Dressler 7-24
W8MCD Len Holmes 7-24-43
KD8FPQ Phil McCourt 7-26-56
WA8GEO Bill Savage 7-27-40
W2THU Robert Winston 7-28-45

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AND MANY HAPPY RETURNS ! ! !

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This Week in Consumer Electronics (TWICE) reports that Kenwood has agreed to merge in 2008 with Victor Company of Japan (JVC) under a holding company. JVC is owned by Matsushita Electric Industrial Company. Japan's Nikkei business newspaper reports that the final details should be worked out by the end of the month. In any "merger," the question to be asked is, "Who is taking over who (or whom)?" In this instance, JVC is described as "struggling," and it appears that Kenwood is taking over JVC, by buying 20 billion yen which translates to the grand total of ($161,469,466) in JVC shares, raising its ownership stake in JVC to 13 percent. Matsushita will also sell part of its 52.7 percent of JVC to Kenwood's top shareholder, the Sparx Group. Operations will be integrated in 2008 and Matsushita will sell the rest of its JVC shares to the holding company at that time. Kenwood's and JVC's sales, combined, are $7.3 billion dollars annually for their fiscal year that ended March.

CHECK INTO THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLUB NET AT 9:00 P.M. YOU'LL HAVE FUN

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

WHAT A MONTH!

We had quite a month, activity wise, this past June! First of all, we had our first picnic meeting in the Brecksville reservation of the Metro Parks, kicking off the summer season. Next we had the American Diabetes Association annual Tour de Cure. This year the Tour took place in Summit County, and began and ended at Blossom Music Center. The Summit County ARES ran communications for the Tour, and asked C.A.R.S. members to help out with radio manpower. Of course our members were there to help. The net control station for the event was not located at Blossom itself, as communications out of that facility was "iffy". Net control was set up at nearby Walsh Jesuit High School. Bruce Brown, KC8RKS was running the show from there.

I want to thank the C.A.R.S. members that came out to do what we do best...communicate. They are; Mike K8EHP and his wife Mary KC8YLC, Gary NI8Z, Mike KB8RKF, Mike, KB8BMY (lots of Mikes here...hi hi...) Toby WT8O, Ron K8VHG, Bill, N8BBB, Mark WD8KHU, and Ed KD8CLC. Our next Diabetes Assn. event will be on October 7th in Cleveland.

This year's Tour went off rather well, considering that this was the first time it was a joint effort between the Cleveland Diabetes Assn. and the Akron Diabetes Assn. There were a few injured bicycle riders, a few repairs to be made to bikes along the route, but overall it was a great Tour. There were a few suggestions that were offered to improve things next year and hopefully they will be implemented. FIELD DAY 2007

Our next big event for June was of course Field Day. I especially enjoyed this year's Field Day, as I caught a break with Toby, WT8O taking over chairmanship of the event. Toby did a GREAT job and is to be commended. Get one of those awards ready for Toby for the Christmas Party. Most of all, I got to operate the entire event without having to stop to cook. Bill Brown, N8BBB handled the cooking chores and provided us with some great grub. I mean, what other Field Day group was served homemade lasagna, made at the site no less? I'm not kidding...I am still working to lose the weight I gained from the great food we had. We couldn't have asked for better weather either. It got a bit cool at night, but that's what jackets are for, right? We had a few glitches, with the satellite station malfunctioning, and a few of the bands were not as "up" as we had hoped for, but overall, I think we did pretty well points wise. Better than last year I have been informed. Plans are already underway for next year's Field Day!

We had a lot of photos taken during the event

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by Scotty, WA8SLN and Mike, KB8BMY, as well as by others. Some are in this issue more will soon be able to be viewed on the C.A.R.S. website.

We were honored by the visit of his honor, Mayor Goodwin this year. Also Debbie Chitester, KB8QHW, daughter of long time member, Ev Chitester WA8EYF. Debbie is an employee of the Red Cross and we got points for inviting her and her coming to visit us. Thanks Deb, really appreciate it! Another visitor came to us all the way from Texas! Saturday morning, while we were still in the process of setting up our stations, Bill Frink, K5WAF strolled into our site. He was in the area visiting his in-laws with his wife, and wanted to take part in Field Day in some way, since he was away from home and not able to participate with his own group. I chatted with him for a bit and invited him to come and operate**.** Bill said he was a CW man and that's what he wanted to do. I told him he was welcome to sit in at the 40 meter CW station that George, K8KR and myself would be running. Bill showed up later in the day and sat down and did some heavy operating. It was a pleasure to have him help us run up some Q's. George took him over to the NODXA Field Day site later on and Bill did some operating there as well!

One more special visitor was our friend and honorary member of C.A.R.S., Mike Lorens. Mike's mom Lynn brought him out to visit on their way home from Medina. Mike is handicapped and would like to be a ham in the worst way, but his impairment keeps him from getting a license. Mike listens to us via his scanner on the repeater though, and even listens in on the weekly net. Mike's grandfather was a ham. Mike got a kick out of the back and forth comments between George and myself while operating 40 meters CW. His mom had to practically drag him away to go home. She said he's sit there all night watching and listening to us if she'd let him. I'm sure that Mike is looking forward to next year's Field Day as much as we are!

JULY MEETING

Don't forget that the July meeting will again be in the park. Come out early, bring some vittles to cook on the grill and have a picnic before the meeting begins. Why do you think it's called a "picnic meeting"? We provide the fire, you provide your own chow. Fair enough? Good! OUTTA HERE

That about does it for this month. I've rambled on long enough. Hope to catch you on the air, on the net, at the meeting, or all of the above.

73 for now,
de Tom, WB8N

MORE FIELD DAY PICS

K8KR whipping out cw while WB8N logs

Ron, WA8ZJV at the 6 meter station.

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Steve N8IS, Kayla N8KAY, with N8DOG

Steve, K8SAS, Toby, WT8O, & Matt W8EBB operating SSB

"Cookie Bill" serving two hungry hams, Ron & Terry

KB8BMY "pumping power"

The Dewster NI8Z working 20m CW

Marc, KB8QHJ at the 10m Sta.

Way to go guys...great ops, great time had by all! For more pics of Field Day, check out* the *CARS website soon.

The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264 Independence, OH 44131-0264. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio publication provided that credit is given to this newsletter and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed in .doc, .wpd, or .txt format to newsletter@2cars.org by the 25th of the month for publication I the next month's issue. By reading this, you are promising to attend more meetings, check in on more club nets, and submit an article for publication in the W.O.

2ND ANNUAL CARS PICNIC

Another very fine family picnic for CARS members is being planned for Friday night, July 27, 2007 by our club's Picnic Committee. It will start at 6PM sharp at City of Independence Picnic area on Selig Drive. It is the same location of the picnic we had last year. It is the first driveway after the fire station going West. We plan to have plenty of good food, including hot dogs, hamburgers, smoked sausage, potato salad, macaroni salad, etc. Also, as we had last year we will be giving away some nice door prizes. The price of admission is right also...absolutely free of cost to CARS members. Plan on having a great time with your fellow club members and their families. **Please fill out a reservation online at the CARS website www.2cars.org** so we know how many people to expect to make sure we have enough food for all. Who knows? maybe a Friday night will be more accommodating to more members than a Saturday afternoon...we will see!

Hope to see you there! 73's, George Pindroh, K8KR, CARS Picnic Chairman

WHAT A FIELD DAY!

By Field Day Chairman,
Toby Kolman, WT8O

This year's Field Day exemplified everything the event should be; emergency operation, camaraderie, participation, exposure to the public, experience for new hams, good food and FUN. The C.A.R.S. eight transmitter station was up and running at the starting bell, all day Saturday, through the night, and Sunday until the last minute of the allowed time. Even the mayor of Broadview Heights paid a visit.

The first aid kits stayed closed, and the fire extinguishers went home full. And the food…… well if you missed it or went home hungry, you must have been somewhere else. Interested visitors and supporting members were eagerly welcomed by club volunteers. The event was well chronicled on film, with photographs and action videos. The weatherman did his part, calling in

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sunny skies, mild temperatures, a cool evening to keep the bugs away, and no rain. Some of the recently licensed amateurs, fresh out of the C.A.R.S. ham classes, were calling CQ and working pile-ups; awesome!

The constant flow of non-commercial power may have been taken for granted by some, but without the watchful eye of Terry, KB8DTC, it could have been pretty shaky.

Scotty, WA8SLN greeted all who came with his smile and sincerity. The "Blues Brothers", Roger, N8TCP, and Ron, WA8ZJV, battled some tough bands, but stuck with it while helping some of the new hams gain experience and offering sage advice to all. Marc, KB8QHJ, and Marion, KC8ZBN, set up and worked their station and added good cheer to the operation, not to mention an exquisite breakfast tray for the Saturday set-up. The high tech team of Steve, N8IS, and Dave, K8DAV, ran the satellite station, and demonstrated solar power and traffic handling. The CW teams of Bob, W8GC, and Gary, NI8Z, at the 20 meter/80 meter station, and Tom, WB8N, and George, K8KR, at the 40 meter station, showed their skills and endurance by racking up QSOs for twenty-four hours straight. Gary went the extra mile, keeping his hard hat on and remaining unscathed. When I needed some of Terry's high test coffee in the middle of the night, I saw one of our new members, Jacob, KD8CDC, spinning the dials chasing a contact. Wow, talk about cool. Dave, KD8V, rounded up some of the middle school students, brought them and their parents to see what Field Day is all about, and helped them operate and pick up some bonus points. What a great way to get the excitement going. Not only that, as always, Dave was willing to help out in any way. He probably would have come out of retirement and done an emergency extraction if the need had arisen. Pat, KD8DYI, helped with kids and parents, too; and brightened up the affair by charming everyone she spoke with.

Mike, KB8BMY,put our Field Day into history, archiving the scenes with video and still photos. His work should be a real nice addition to the website. He contributed in many other ways, operating, instructing, demonstrating radio and alternative power, but mostly by keeping things upbeat with his high energy and hilarious sense of humor. Without Ron, K8VJG, a C.A.R.S. Field Day would not be complete. He pitched in to operate and offer his decades of amateur radio experience to anyone in need. To many of us, Ron's just being there was a gift from God.

One of the stalwarts of the Field Day team, Mike, KB8UGT, set up one of the most sophisticated stations with the help of XYL Diane, KD8FTV. Mike contributed a steady stream of points for the entire period. His easy going style and unremovable smile kept spirits high for many of us. The newly formed team of Matt, W8EBB, Steve, K8SAS, and Toby, WT8O, ran steadily for the entire event. Newly licensed Matt, provided the slickest logging system out there, and operated like a veteran. Steve, who has recently upgraded to General, jumped into his first contest feet first and handled the contacts and pileups with a smoothness many experienced hams would admire. ED, KD8CLC, had complications which prevented him from being at Field Day, but he was the man responsible for originating the acquisition of the snappy official T-shirts many of us wore. Tina, W8HBI, was at the site for the big event, but without her help in preparations before hand, the whole thing could have been a flop. Her efficiency and expertise in handling details is unsurpassed. We owe a special thanks to Kayla, N8KAY, who came out, worked the bands, and got us some precious bonus points.

The star of the show was Bill, N8BBB. He took it upon himself to handle the task of feeding the troops single handedly. Bill did it all, shopped for the food, prepared it, and left the kitchen cleaner than it has been in quite some time. And he did it all splendidly. The food was superb; a combination of home cooking and restaurant quality. Not a soul among us, could help but praise the cuisine to the highest level. Besides, he did it all with vigor and enthusiasm.

Field Day 2007 for the C.A.R.S. was a rousing success. Some are already talking about next year. Not only did we have a fantastic time, we discovered one thing; we're more than a club, we're a team.

HAM RADIO OFFERS TOO MANY OPTIONS ?

By Jim Weaver, K8JE, ARRL Great Lakes Director

It can be argued that the most major problem facing Amateur Radio is that we have been too successful. We have been too successful at obtaining and developing frequency bands, and in developing and using a wide variety of modes to use in our operating.

To follow the logic, take a moment from reading this e-letter and think of the many operating options we hams have. Think, too, about the wide range of frequency bands from 160M through those that are minuscule in length. To name just a few, there are Morse code, AM, FM, RTTY, a variety of digital modes, FSK, AFSK, variations of TV, facsimile and then we have frequencies that range through much of the wide world of spectra. The bottom line is that each of us, if we wish, has many modes of operation and many frequency choices we can use and enjoy.

So, what is wrong with this? The problem is that in our nearsightedness, we have become extremely fragmented as hams instead of remaining a cohesive group. During the past few decades, we have allowed ourselves in many instances to think our personal choices of operating styles, modes and frequency ranges are the only choices "real" amateurs could possibly make. We have, for example, many VHF aficionados who see no value in HF. We have many devotees of cutting-edge digital modes who see no value in CW or AM – the older modes of communication. There are SSBers who are so infuriated with AMers they would nearly commit murder to clear the bands of the AM clutter. But, it isn't always new mode vs. old mode. Some of our devoted CW ops think broadband digital should be banned because it is nothing more than a nuisance. Yes, indeed, we are equal prejudice individuals. I could name additional ham-to-ham prejudices, but I think you get the idea.

So, who or what is hurt by these prejudices? Amateur Radio is. These prejudices divide us into splinter groups. We have become VHF hams, digital hams, anti-CW hams, anti-AM hams. We are Contesters or anti-Contesters. We are "its my frequency" ragchewers Instead of pulling together for the benefit of all of hamming, all too many amateurs feel they hold no stake when "the other guy's" idea of ham radio is threatened by attacks from the government or industry. As one example, many HSMM-hams couldn't care less if the FCC proposed abolishing all privileges for Morse code operating. Conversely, many CW ops would do little more than smile if broadband digital was ruled illegal on ham frequencies.

Regardless of the misconception by one "side" or another, all of Amateur Radio loses any time the FCC begins to withdraw privileges – modes or frequencies -- from another phase. Clearly, I won't now or in the future vote in favor of any proposals to have the FCC "modernize" Amateur Radio (as some hams would view it) by banning AM or by limiting the privileges of Morse or other forms of operation preferred by anyone.

Unfortunately, Amateur Radio has become a marginally functioning, if not non-functioning, family in many instances. We find brother ham fighting brother ham, and sister ham bad mouthing sister ham merely because their operating preferences are different. This is no way to develop a winning team whether it is baseball, football, doubles tennis, an army . . . or a strong lobbying (advocacy) team.

Actually, I will correct my initial supposition. We hams don't have too many choices. Worse than this, we have too little maturity in thought to manage the privileges we have been given for our common good.

The real question is, "Why don't we all act like emotionally stable people and work together to our mutual benefit?" Just think what a formidable force for each other's good we would make if we would speak and act in unison.

The above was reprinted with permission, from the Weaver's Words E-newsletter. - Ed.

CARS Calendar of Events for July, August and September 2007

July 2007

July 4	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
July 8	VE Session @ Old Town Hall in Independence @ 9:00 am
July 10	CARS Meeting @ Oak Grove Picnic Area @ 7:30 pm
July 11	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
July 18	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
July 27	CARS Family Picnic @ 6:00 pm
July 24	Newsletter Submission Deadline
July 25	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm

August 2007

August 1	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
August 4-5	National Lighthouse-Lightship QSO Party
August 8	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
August 14	CARS Meeting @ Oak Grove Picnic Area @ 7:30 pm
August 15	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
August 18-19	International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend
August 22	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
August 24	Newsletter Submission Deadline
August 25	Ohio QSO Party
August 29	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm

September 2007

September 5	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
September 9	VE Session @ Old Town Hall in Independence @ 9:00 am
September 11	CARS Meeting @ Busch Community Room @7:30 pm
September 12	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
September 19	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
September 21	Newsletter Submission Deadline
September 22	**ARRL Great Lakes Convention - Cleveland**
September 23	Cleveland Hamfest
September 26	Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm